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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Parliament to Hold Extraordinary Session for Troop
Deployment - Hurriyet
Great Dangers in Iraq for Turkish Troops - Turkiye
Psychological Operation - Milliyet
PM Erdogan: "We Might Send Troops to Iraq" - Sabah
444 Militants Applied to Benefit under Repentance Law -
Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Kurdish Obstacle for Turkish Troops - Cumhuriyet
Iraq Briefing for President Sezer - Radikal
PM Erdogan: "Turkey's Decision for Troop Deployment in Iraq
Will Not Come as a Surprise" - Zaman
Felluce Trap for Turkish Troops - Yeni Safak
FM Gul: "We Should Consider Sending Troops Even Without UN
or NATO Decision - Yeni Safak
Returning Home Speeds Up - Radikal
444 Applications for Repentance Law - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Troop Deployment in Iraq: "Milliyet" reports that Turkey
will send a delegation to Iraq next week to check the
feelings of the Iraqi people against Turkish troops. The
delegation will consist of Turkish military and civilian
officials. To understand Iraqi's feelings against Turkish
troops, the delegation will meet with the local leaders in
Baghdad, Felluce and Tikrit. "Hurriyet" reports that PM
Erdogan and FM Gul met with President Sezer yesterday to
convince him to send troops to Iraq without waiting for a UN
or NATO decision. PM and FM announced at their party
meeting yesterday that, in order to pass the motion for
troop deployment, they might call Parliament for an
extraordinary session at the end of August or beginning of
September. "Hurriyet" also covered Secretary of State Colin
Powell's remarks about Turkish troop deployment. Speaking
at the Foreign Press Center, Powell was quoted as saying
that 'I informed Turkish Foreign Minister Gul two weeks ago
that we want Turkish troops in Iraq. Mr.Gul told me that
the issue will be evaluated by the Turkish government in
detail. I presume, it will take time. We trust that
Turkish troop existence in Iraq would be accepted by all the
groups, including Kurdish groups. In order to end the
PKK/KADEK threat, we are coordinating with our Turkish
friends. And we are very pleased with our relations with
Ankara on all these issues'.

Response to the Repentance Law: All papers report that the
response to the law was immense on the first day of the
application. "Hurriyet" reports that at a press conference
yesterday, Interior Minister Aksu stated that so far 444
militants had applied for amnesty. 333 of those are inmates
and 111 are militants. "Milliyet" notes that four PKK
militants had already been set free following their
application.

Turkey and TRNC Delay Customs Union Agreement: "Zaman" reports that Turkey and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) would postpone the signing of a customs union agreement scheduled for today.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

-- Iraq's Effect on Arab world
-- US-Turkey Relations/Iraq

"Arab World's Stance"

Ahmet Tasgetiren commented in Islamist-intellectual Yeni Safak (8/8): "The Arab League's decision about not recognizing the Iraqi Governing Council was interpreted as a surprise development because the general expectation was to see a more moderate approach than this. However, members of the Arab League were pushed to make such a decision due to their public opinion pressure. . The fact of the matter is that the US is not a beloved figure in the region, and the occupation for whatever reason is not approved. Thus any American initiative, including the Iraqi Governing Council, is considered as illegitimate. . It looks as though it is best to suggest the US withdraw from Iraq at once. It will serve the interest of all parties in the region when and if authority is left to the Iraqis before any more chaos and more power vacuums. It will also serve the US interests in particular when and if Washington saves itself from neo-cons in policy making."

"Turkish PM Dreams of Hosting Bush in Ankara"

Zeynep Gurcanli wrote in the tabloid Star (8/8): "The decision process on whether or not to send Turkish troops to Iraq will be a tough one. . Yet it seems the AKP government expects a political gain by taking a risk of sending Turkish soldiers to an unstable area. Turkish government officials are trying to eliminate the last bits of worry about the policy and intention of the AKP within the eyes of Washington. Ankara is aware of the fact that working together with the US on Iraq is the best possible way to achieve this goal. And there is more to that. Turkey will host the NATO summit next year. President Bush will be in Turkey to attend. The Erdogan government wants to realize an extended tour for President Bush with the hope that he will visit Ankara before or after the summit. The idea of Erdogan hosting President Bush is interpreted by the AKP as the final stage of AKP's legitimacy vis-a-vis the western world."

DEUTSCH